

BOOK NOTICES

A New Text Book of Genetics

There is a very complete presentation of modern genetics, written by one who had the good fortune to be a member of the *Drosophila* group at Columbia University during the formative years of the science. Although *Drosophila* is used to a large extent throughout the book, many examples from human inheritance are interspersed, as well as instances from domestic and laboratory animals, and plants. The style is clear and simple, and the book is written with the viewpoint of the student continually in mind. Excellent drawings and diagrams clarify all difficult points.

The *Drosophila* system of gene nomenclature is used, a fact which in the opinion of this reviewer offers the greatest drawback to the usefulness of the text. Fortunately all geneticists do not share this writer's aversion to the + as a gene symbol. Excellent summaries follow the texts of the chapters, and well thought out problems are appended to each chapter. No references are given. A few typographical errors appear, but the book is remarkably free from them. Particularly good discussions are presented of chromosomal aberrations, mutations, and the bearing of genetics on development and evolution. The book is as complete and modern as a text could well be.—*L. H. Snyder.*

Genetics, by Edgar Altenburg. xii+452 pp. New York, Henry Holt and Co., 1945.

Check List of Cicadellidae

The first attempt at bringing together the species of the family Cicadellidae since the publication of the catalogue by Van Duzee in 1917 appeared in mimeograph form in 1937 under the authorship of DeLong and Caldwell. Since then generic revisions based on structural characters have resulted in many new species and some new synonymy. All these changes and additions have been incorporated into this new recently published Check List.

It lists 175 genera and 2276 species, varieties, and subspecies occurring north of Mexico. Synonymy as given in the Van Duzee catalogue is not repeated. Original literature on each species is cited by number from a list near the end of the paper which saves repetition of wording names of journals or other places of publication. The specific names under each genus are alphabetized which simplifies the locating of a particular species.

A suggested list of generic papers on the family and an index to genera completes the publication.

This is an invaluable tool for those interested in classification of insects and especially those who are actively engaged in studies on the taxonomy of leafhoppers.—*Ralph H. Davidson.*

Check List of the Cicadellidae (Homoptera) of America, North of Mexico, by Dwight M. DeLong and Dorothy J. Knull. 102 pages. 1945. Ohio State University Graduate School Studies. Biological Science Series No. 1. Paper bound. \$1.50.